(e) It will not be in public interest to give details of proposals under the consideration of the Government in regard to adjustment of rates of duty.

Reported smuggling of foodgrains to China and Nepal

†2091. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Blitz' dated the 7th July, 1984 to the effect that large scale smuggling of foodgrains from India to China and Nepal from the Border District of Pithoragarh of Kumaon hills has come to the light and persons enjoying dual nationality, living in villages close to the neighbouring countries, are the main couriers;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether any inquiry has since been made into the matter; and

(d) what action Government have taken to stop smuggling of foodgrains from the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c) Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Blitz dated 7th July, 1984 regarding smuggling of foodgrains from India to China and Nepal. Reports received by the Government do not indicate any large scale smuggling of foodgrains from Pithoragarh district of Uttar Pradesh to China and Nepal during 1983 and 1984.

(d) Appropriate anti-smuggling measures have been taken by the Government to check smuggling activities in general across the Indo-Nepal border. Bilateral arrangements also exist between India and Nepal under the Agreement for Co-operation to Control Unauthorised Trade. The preventive and Intelligence machinery of the Customs Department have been re-inforced in terms of man-power and equipment in the region. The concerned Central and State Government agencies on the Indo-Nepal border remain vigilant for appropriate action.

2092. (Transferred to the 24th August, 1984]

Enquiry against M/s. S.G.S. Investments Limited, Andamans by the Income Tax Department

2093. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the income-tax Department conducted any special enquiry against M/s. S.G.S. Investments Limited operating in Andaman Islands in the beginning of the current year; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the findings, results of the enquiry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several residents of Andaman Islands have been examined to verify the purchase of shares of the company. Further investigation is still in progress.

Import and export policy

2094. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Estimates Committee in its 76th Report has suggested the formation of an effective institutional framework for formulating import and export policy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Committee has suggested greater involvement of small scale sector in the formulation of import and export policy;

†Previously Unstarred Question No. 1593, transferred from the 8th August, 1984.

(c) if so, whether Government have accepted the suggestion made therein;

(d) when Government propose to form such a body; and

(e) how many Apex bodies of small scale sector are functioning at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No decision has been taken.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Federation of the Association of Small Scale Industries is a body at the national level representing the interests of the small Scale Sector. Organisation, like NAYE AND AIMO have also been taking interest in the Small Scale Sector.

Loans for the purchase of Matador/ Scooter

2095. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications received with their particulars by the Punjab National Bank, Janpath Branch, New Delhi for loans for the purchase of Matador/Scooter since April, 1984;

(b) what are the details of the applications which have been cleared and sanctioned loan so far; and

(c) what are the reasons for not clearing the rest of the applications?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c) Punjab National Bank have reported that their Janpath branch, New Delhi received just one loan application for purchase of a Matador which was duly accorded sanction for a loan amount of Rs. 70,000. They have also reported that no applications were received for purchase of scooters.

Grant of extension of service to officers in the three Services

2096. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rules pertaining to grant of extension of service to Officers, JCO's or the equivalent rank and other ranks of the three Services;

(b) the number of officers of the rank of Brigadier or its equivalent or above who were granted extension in the three Services during the last three years; and

(c) the number of officers in these ranks of the three Services who were not granted extension during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) The rules regarding extension of service in the three Services are explained in the following paragraphs:—

A—ARMY

Officers—Officers are governed by the minimum and maximum ages of retirement for each rank. They are screened one year before reaching the minimum age of retirement and if found fit, are ganted retention up to the maximum age of retirement *i.e.* up to the age of superannuation.

Extension in service beyond the age of superannuation is normally not given. However, officers may be granted extension of service at the discretion of the Central Government, if the exigencies of service so require.

JCOs/NCOs/ORs—Their retention up to the enhanced service/age limit is also subject to their being found fit by the Screening Boards which are held 1½ years before reaching the earlier service limit.

The colour service of NCOs and ORs can be extended compulsorily in the interest of service under the following circumstances:—

(1) Due to exigencies of service.